IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following listing of claims:

29. (Currently amended) A method for performing charging in a telecommunications system, comprising:

storing at a subscriber information store subscription information including charging arrangement information indicative of the charging arrangement for a first communication terminal operating in the telecommunications system;

providing by means of packet data interface apparatus packet data communication services to the first terminal, the packet data interface apparatus being capable of interfacing between the first communication terminal and a packet-switched data link to another communications terminal;

generating by means of the packet data interface apparatus ~~charging~~usage information messages indicative of the usage of the packet data communication services by the first terminal; and

transferring the ~~charging~~usage information messages to a charging apparatus;

the method further including the steps of:

transferring the charging arrangement information stored at the subscriber information store from the subscriber information store to the packet data interface apparatus; and

storing at the packet data interface apparatus the charging arrangement information received from the subscriber information store for the first communication terminal; and

wherein the step of generating ~~charging~~usage information messages comprises generating the said ~~charging~~usage information messages dependent on the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal.

30. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein~~:~~

~~the step of generating the charging messages comprises:~~

~~determining on the basis of the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal stored at the packet data interface apparatus whether a communication with the first terminal is liable to charging; and~~

~~generating a charging message for the communication if the communication is liable to charging; and~~

a charging operation to attribute to a subscriber for the first communications terminal a charge for use of the communication services by the first terminal is performed by means of the charging apparatus.

31. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~30~~29, wherein the step of generating the usage information messages comprises:

~~it is~~ determining on the basis of the ~~ed that a communication is not liable for charging if~~ charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal stored at the packet data interface apparatus whether a ~~indicates that the~~ communication with the first communication terminal is ~~subject~~liable to ~~flat rate payment~~ charging; and

generating a charging message for the communication if the communication is liable to charging.

32. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein it is determined that a communication is not liable for charging if charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal stored at the packet data interface apparatus indicates that the communication is subject to pre-payment.

33. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein it is determined that a communication is not liable for charging if charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal stored at the packet data interface apparatus indicates that the communication is free of charge.

34. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein it is determined that a communication is not liable for charging if a session itself indicates that the communication is free of charge.

35. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the ~~charging~~ usage information message is indicative of the duration and/or type of the communication.

36. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the ~~charging~~ usage information message is indicative of an amount of data transferred in the communication.

37. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the ~~charging~~usage information message is indicative of the identity of the first communication terminal.

38. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the ~~charging~~ usage information message is a CDR ticket.

39. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the step of transferring the charging arrangement information to the packet data interface apparatus is performed during attachment of the first communication terminal to the telecommunications system.

40. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the subscriber information store is a home location register.

41. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 40 wherein the home location register stores information indicative of access point names available to the first terminal, and the method includes the step of accessing that information.

42. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the packet data interface apparatus is capable of interfacing between a packet radio connection with the first communication terminal and a packet-switched data link to the other communications terminal.

43. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 42, wherein the packet radio connection is a general packet radio service (GPRS) connection.

44. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the packet data interface apparatus comprises a serving GPRS support node (SGSN).

45. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal is stored at the SGSN.

46. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the packet data interface apparatus comprises a global GPRS support node (GGSN).

47. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal is stored at the GGSN.

48. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 46 wherein the step of transferring the charging arrangement information to the packet data interface apparatus comprises transferring the charging arrangement information to the SGSN.

49. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 48, comprising the step of transferring the charging arrangement information from the SGSN to the GGSN.

50. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 49 wherein the said step of transferring the charging arrangement information from the SGSN to the GGSN is performed if it is determined that the communication is subject to hot billing.

51. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 46 wherein the step of determining whether a communication with the first terminal is liable to charging is performed by means of the SGSN and the GGSN.

52. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 51 wherein the said step of generation of the ~~charging~~usage information messages is performed by means of the GGSN and SGSN.

53. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the telecommunications system is a universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS).

54. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system, comprising:

a subscriber information store storing subscription information including charging arrangement information indicative of the charging arrangement for a first communication terminal operating in the telecommunication system;

packet data interface apparatus for providing packet data communication services to the first terminal, the packet data interface apparatus being capable of interfacing between the first communication terminal and a packet-switched data link to another communications terminal, and generating ~~charging~~usage information messages indicative of the usage of the packet data communication services by the first terminal;

message transfer apparatus for transferring the ~~charging~~usage information messages to a charging apparatus;

and wherein the packet data interface apparatus is adapted to receive and store the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal and to generate the said ~~charging~~usage information messages dependant on the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal.

55. (Previously presented) A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 54, wherein charging apparatus is capable of performing a charging operation to attribute to a

subscriber for the first communications terminal a charge for use of the communication services by the first terminal.

56. (New) A packet data interface apparatus for providing packet data communication services to a first communication terminal operating in a telecommunications system, the packet data interface apparatus being capable of:

interfacing between the first communication terminal and a packet-switched data link to another communication terminal; and

generating usage information messages indicative of the usage of the packet data communication services by the first terminal;

the packet data interface being adapted to:

receive and store charging information indicative of the charging arrangement for the first communication terminal; and

generate said usage information messages dependent on the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal.